

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Eighth Town Council of Highland
Monday, September 15, 2014**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Eighth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, September 15, 2014** at the time of 7:09 o'clock p.m.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, and Konnie Kuiper were present. Councilor Dennis Adams was absent. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Additional Officials Present: David Byer, Recreation Director; and Katie Minchuck, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer were present.

Also present: Ed Dabrowski IT Director (Contract); Randy Bowman, Assistant Inspector for Electrical; Chris Ray and Carlos Aburto of the Park and Recreation Board; and Pat Krull of the Highland Board of School Trustees were also present.

Mr. Andy Raab of Highland Youth Softball Association was also present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. *Scheduling of Possible Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the Police Station.* The Town Council discussed the desirability of conducting a ground-breaking ceremony. The discussion included fixing a date and time that would permit the most participation. It was determined that Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. would be preferable.
2. *Discussion of a Proposed Modification to the Meadows Park Plan that would include Adding an Additional Softball Field.* Park and Recreation Board President Chris Ray and Recreation Director Dave Byers presented to the Town Council the modification to the Meadows Park Plan as was proposed in the recently adopted Master Plan. Further, they reported the reactions from residents in the Meadows neighborhood from a meeting convened to discuss the alternative proposal.

It was noted that the Master Plan featured changes to Meadows Park in response to a request from the Highland Youth Softball Association (HYSA) seeking to schedule all games at a single site. The rationale for this was based upon families with participants of various ages finding it convenient to be in one site, eliminating the difficulty of getting volunteers to populate or staff the concession stands. In turn, this plan would allow the Highland Youth Soccer Association to confine most of its games in a single site.

It was determined after consultation with HYSA leadership that instead of another ball field installation the installation of an additional set of lights to an existing field at Meadows would allow HYSA to schedule all its games at Meadows Park. This would end its use of the ball field at Sheppard Park. This would allow the elimination of the field at Sheppard to permit parking lot expansion for Soccer.

It was further noted that the Park and Recreation Board convened a special meeting on September 4 with residents in the meadows neighborhood. Special hand-delivered notices were distributed to each residence in the homes surrounding the Meadows Park. Fourteen persons attended the meeting. At that meeting, residents raised concerns regarding the existing traffic problems and concerns about the impact to have all games conducted at Meadows.

Mr. Raab representing HYSA indicated that HYSA would schedule games with staggered start times, to assist with the traffic problems. He noted that adding a second game at 8:00 p.m. would be employed, noting the current practice is to have only one.

At the invitation of the Town Council President, the Recreation Director opined that of those present from the neighborhood, about half seemed satisfied with the change and the other half not. The Recreation Director noted that there were "numerous" electronic mails sent to support the additional lighting solution for the Meadows.

The discussion included concerns about tournaments. It was noted that HYSA did not conduct or sponsor many of these. Further, games would be scheduled Monday through Thursday with rain-out or pick-up games needed to be rescheduled on Fridays, when needed.

It was noted in the discussion that sometimes lights were left on overnight at the Meadows from games. It was further noted that the newly installed lights could be fitted with remote control to allow them to be turned-off easily or perhaps even timed. It was further noted that these lights would feature specific directional aiming and side covers to limit the ambient light that could concern residents.

Mr. Ray, Mr. Byers, and Mr. Raab departed at this time.

3. At the request of Councilor Herak, the Town Council discussed the challenge of the ash borer infestation and its impact on trees in the parkways. Councilor Herak discussed the removal of the infested trees throughout town. It was further noted that such a project would be expensive and was not presently funded. It was determined that the project move forward with exploration of costs and identification of funding.
4. At the request of Councilor Herak, the Town Council discussed its current parking prohibition in parkways. It was further noted that Faith Church, located at Grace and Lincoln Streets, often uses the parkway along Grace Street, which is paved, for parking. It was further noted that there were complaints regarding the practice. It was suggested that an amendment to the current code providing for limited parking on Sundays, might be helpful. It was also noted that during funeral events, that parking would be needed too. It was determined that the amendment be placed in draft form for review.
5. Councilor Herak offered an update briefing regarding the Hammond Sanitary District and the Highland Sanitary District contract status. It was noted that the current contract between Hammond and the customer communities of Griffith, Highland and Whiting has been found to be valid and operative. Further, Hammond has approached Whiting and Griffith to discuss a contract modification that would permit a new type of rate that Hammond officials described as "market rate" based.
6. The Town Council discussed the desirability of seeking proposals for the printing of the monthly newsletter. It was noted that the Idea Factory, the newsletter content services provider, had obtained the quotes that informed the current printing services. It was also noted that if the content providers could not seek quotes that the Clerk-Treasurer would prepare the proposals and seek quotes. The Town Council President indicated that he would contact the content provider.

There being no further business necessary or desired to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council of **Monday, September 15, 2014**, was adjourned at 7:55 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO
Clerk-Treasurer